

# MONEY

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## Getting the word out about health care Campaign to increase awareness of services



### Find out more

To find out more about available local health care and social services, call the Idaho Careline at 2-1-1 or at 1-800-926-2588.

By Sandy Miller  
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — There are resources out there for things like health care, day care and help with aging parents. The problem is that many people don't know about them.

One group especially in need of services, but not knowing where to find them, is the working poor.

"The people who are falling through the cracks are the people who make minimum wage,"

said John Hathaway, regional director for the Department of Health and Welfare. "We're finding more and more people whose budgets are stretched to the max."

There are a number of resources out there to help the employed and unemployed alike, and people can find out all about them by calling the 2-1-1 Idaho Careline, a free, statewide, bilingual telephone and information referral system established in 2002 to link Idahoans with private, public

and nonprofit health-related services.

"It's such a neat service," said Anita Henna, a program supervisor for Health and Welfare. "You just dial 2-1-1 and they'll link you up with services in your community." Henna and others across the state gathered Tuesday morning to launch a two week campaign to increase awareness of the 2-1-1 Idaho Careline and to recruit more providers to the Careline list. Here in Twin Falls, people gathered in the parking lot at Family Health Services. Events were

held in each of the Department of Health and Welfare's seven regions, including one in Boise attended by Gov. Jim Risch.

"We're trying to hook people up with those resources and make life better for everyone," Hathaway said.

Jim Fields, director of the local Office on Aging, said he sees a lot of people looking for resources for their aging parents.

"Their mother or father is getting older and they're looking

for any programs that make life easier so their parents can stay in their homes," Fields said.

There are a number of programs to help seniors remain independent, including Meals on Wheels, a homemaker program, a respite program, a volunteer service that provides transportation, and a Foster Grandparent program, Fields said. Some of the programs are free, while payment for others is based on a sliding scale, meaning people pay only what they can afford to pay. And people can find out more about them by simply picking up the phone and calling the Idaho Careline.

Currently, the 2-1-1 Idaho Careline has 3,382 programs and services available and averages 14,000 calls monthly, according to a news release from the governor's office.